and final safeguard measures in the form of quotas on five categories of steel items were imposed with additional tariff in case the imports exceed the relevant quota. These measures would be in place for the next two and a half years. However, these measures do not apply to India.

(d) In accordance with the WTO rules China has exempted the developing countries, including India from the safeguard measures. However, the exemption is subject to the condition that import share of a developing country in a particular category should not exceed 3% of China's total import volume in that category.

(e) A delegation led by the Minister of State for Steel visited China from May 18-23, 2002. The purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities of cooperation in the Iron and Steel sector. At times, the public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Steel and delegations to China to promote exports, source raw materials and explore areas of co-operation. Apart from these Ministry and PSU initiatives, the Embassy of India, Beijing has also identified products which are in demand under the Harmonised System Code 72 (Iron and Steel) in the Chinese market and the necessary information has been forwarded to the concerned Indian Chambers of Commerce/Export Councils and industry players active in the field of Iron and Steel. The Indian Steel Alliance, working under the aegis of the confederation of India Industry (CII), has already initiated talks with the Chinese government and steel companies in China to increase trade between the two countries.

The Ministry is thus actively involved in various promotional efforts in consultation with the industry and their Associations. The Government is fully discharging its role as a facilitator in a liberalised environment and helping the industry to adequately exploit the market potential.

Expansion of VSP

2224. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blue print for the expansion of the Vizag Steel Plant

(VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam has been worked out which may involve the collaboration of the global steel majors;

(b) if so, whether the first phase of the expansion itself would cost Rs. 2500 crores which would enable the company's liquid steel production to be increased to five million tonnes from the existing three million tonnes;

(c) if so, the main features of the expansion plan; and

(d) by what time the proposed project is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Performance of PSUs

2225. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial performance of public sector undertakings has improved and almost all the PSUs have registered profits during the last fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details of net profit earned by each PSU;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some loss making units have reduced losses substantially during 2002-03; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to maintain the *status quo* during the current financial year, too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Performance of most of the public sector undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel has improved.

(b) The net profit/loss of each public sector undertaking during the year 2002-03 is as under: